

increased funding at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) from \$1.1 million in Fiscal Year 2000 to \$6.7 million in FY 2001 and boosted funding at the National Institute of Health (NIH) from \$40 million in FY 1999 to \$45 million in 2000. Another significant increase in autism funding is expected at NIH for FY 2001. Congress also held hearings on autism, which have led to a better understanding of the disorder.

Many of my colleagues who I worked with last year on these issues are enthusiastic members of C.A.R.E., including, Dr. DAVE WELDON of Florida, Chairman DAN BURTON of Indiana, and Congressman JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania.

I am extremely proud of the work we did last Congress. The enactment of Title I of the Children's Health Act (P.L. 106-310) on October 17, which incorporated provisions of two bills JIM GREENWOOD and I introduced—HR 274 and HR 997—were a major feat for autism research.

Title I of this legislation, among other things, authorized the creation of 3 "Centers of Excellence" in autism epidemiology to conduct prevalence and incidence data on autism. In this way, scientists can get a better understanding of the scope of CDC and would specialize in a specific aspect of autism research. In addition, the centers would provide education on the best methods of diagnosis and treatment of autism to educators and physicians.

In December, we worked hard to win appropriations of \$3 million for Fiscal Year 2001 to fund the Centers of Excellence for CDC and begin larger-scale autism prevalence and incidence studies.

CDC expects to issue program announcements and requests for proposals in the early summer of 2001 to implement P.L. 106-310. Grants would be awarded to successfully completed applications to CDC for the "Centers of Excellence" sometime in the early fall of 2001.

Another provision in the Children's Health Act directs the Director of the NIH to establish not less than 5 Centers of Excellence to conduct basic and clinical research including developmental neurobiology, genetics and psychopharmacology.

The Members of C.A.R.E. will work to further advance the process of establishing these Centers of Excellence, which will lead to a better understanding of autism and related disorders.

The 106th Congress also significantly boosted total federal funding for autism. We want to take a page out of that playbook and repeat that success this year as well. CDC funding for autism increased from \$1.1 million in FY 2000 to \$6.7 million in FY 2001. Since FY 1998, when autism funding at CDC was a mere \$287,000, funding has increased by a net total of 2,246 percent! That's 23.5 times what CDC spent just four years ago.

At NIH, Congress won increases in funding for autism from \$40 million in FY 1999 to \$45 million in 2000. Funding for 2001 is also expected to increase. Since FY 1998, autism research has been increased by 66 percent at NIH. Maybe this year we can make yet another installment on our plan to double autism research at NIH.

Finally, at the request of interested Members of Congress and with grass roots sup-

port, the House has held two separate hearings on the problem of autism—one by the Commerce Committee and another by the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Additional hearings are likely if Member interest stays strong. I know Chairman DAN BURTON at the Government Reform and Oversight Committee remains deeply interested in further hearings. And Chairman MIKE BILIRAKIS is another strong supporter of autism research and oversight.

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS ACT OF 2001

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, and Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. Over \$21 are saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 are saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that nearly one in five employer-sponsored health plans do not cover immunizations for infants and children. Nearly one in four children in Preferred Provider Organizations and indemnity plans do not have coverage for immunizations.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2001 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-four states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

THE WORK FOR REAL WAGES ACT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that helps correct a portion of the Welfare Reform Law of 1996.

Under the 1996 welfare reform law, states were allowed to enact workfare programs in which welfare recipients are forced to work off their welfare benefit, rather than receive real wages.

The Work for Real Wages Act requires that welfare recipients who perform unpaid work as a condition of receiving welfare benefits be credited with wages for the purposes of calculating the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

It is unfair to require unpaid work, yet credit nothing toward Social Security, unemployment compensation, and other wage-based benefits programs.

My bill credits the hours worked without direct compensation as though minimum wage were paid for the purpose of claiming earned income tax credits.

I urge all Members to cosponsor this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. THOMAS J. DEMPSEY

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor one of the founders of the community of Mammoth Lakes, in my district in California, Mr. Thomas J. Dempsey. After a lifetime of hard work and dedication, my good friend Tom Dempsey passed away on February 1, 2001. He was 66 years old.

Tom was a very private man who quietly made possible the growth and development of Mammoth Lakes. While most people are unaware of his contributions to the community, he played a vital role in forming what it has become.

From the time he arrived in the early 1950's with dreams of becoming a professional ski racer, Mammoth Lakes was always near and dear to Tom's heart. In 1955, he helped build Chair I at Mammoth Mountain. After working as a carpenter for several summers, in 1961, he constructed his first home in Mammoth. That was but the beginning of great things to come. As the sole owner of Dempsey Construction Corporation, Tom became one of the foremost developers of mountain resorts and planned communities in the western United States. However, despite many successful developments elsewhere, the Snowcreek Resort in Mammoth Lakes has remained the corporation's flagship project.

In a very literal way, the town of Mammoth Lakes is what it is because of Tom Dempsey's vision and sense of civic duty. When he purchased the 355-acre Snowcreek Resort property in 1977, the town was under a building moratorium due to insufficient water supplies.